Supply of subsidised rice to tribal population

1345. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had launched any scheme in 1985 for the supply of subsidised rice to the tribal population in the country at the rate of 1.85 per kg;

(b) whether all the State Governments adhere to the norms fixed by Government;

(c) if not, the names of defaulting States; and

(d) what are the issue prices of superfine, fine and common varieties of rice supplied to the State Governments for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Government of India launched in 1985 a scheme for supply of wheat and rice at specially subsidised prices in ITDP areas and the tribal majority States. The end retail price for consumers of rice fixed under the scheme was Rs. 1.85 per kg.

(b) and (c) The maximum retail prices fixed by the Government of India for the varieties of rice supplied under the scheme are as follows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

	Dec. 85 to 30-9-87	1-10-87 to 24-1-89	W.e.f. 25-1-89
Rice (Common)	185.00	185.00	210.00
Rice (Fine)	195.00	208.00	279.00
Rice (Superfine)	210.00	223.00	300.00

Government of Andhra Pradesh had been charging Rs. 200 per quintal for common rice since the implementation of this scheme upto 7.8.86 against the then permissible ceiling of Rs. 185/- per quintal. Thereafter, this end retail price was fixed at Rs 185 per quintal which continued to be the same upto 24-1-89. With effect from 25.1.89, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has fixed an uniform and retail price of Rs. 200 per quintal for the common, fine and superfine varieties of rice. A statement showing the ITDP end retail prices fixed at present by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman is in attached Statement. (*See* below) Information in respect of other States is being collected.

(d) The Central issue prices at which common, fine and superfine varieties of rice are issued by FCI to the State Governments/Union Territories concerned under the scheme are as follows:—

(Rs. per quintal)

	Dec. 85 to 30-9-87	1-10-87 to 24-1-89	W.e.f. 25-1-89
Rice (Common)	160.00	160.00	194.00
Rice (Fine)	170.0	183.00	254.00
Rice (Superfine)	185.00	198.00	275.00

Statement

End retail prices fixed at present by the State Governments for rice distributed under the scheme for supply of foodgrains at specially subsidised prices in ITDP areas and the Tribal majority States

(Rupees per quintal)

State	Common Rice	Fine Rice	Superfine Rice
1. Andhra Pradesh	200	200	200
2. West Bengal	223	289	310
3. Gujarat	220	280	300
4. Orissa	200	265	280
5. Arunachal Pradesh	219	279	300
6. Maharashtra	219	279	300
7. Rajasthan	219	279	300
8. Uttar Pradesh	219	279	300
9. Kerala	219	279	300
10. Himachal Pradesh	219	279	300
11. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	219	279	300
12. Daman	219	..	..

Increase in the prices of pulses

1346. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses have risen sharply during the past few weeks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control the prices and to increase the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There has been only some increase in the prices of pulses since the beginning of the current financial year (1989-90). During the current financial year (till 8.7.89), the wholesale price index of pulses has increased by 9.4% as against 16% increase registered in the corresponding period in 1988-89. In the past four weeks (till 8.7.89), the wholesale price index (WPI) of pulses declined by 0.1%; during this period the WPI of gram and *arhar* has declined by 1.0 per cent each *masoor* by 0.9 per cent and *urd* by 1.9 per cent while *moong* has registered an increase of 4.7 per cent.

(b) The Government has taken a number of measures to contain the rise in the prices of pulses and improve their availability. The main thrust of the Government policy has been to increase the production and availability of pulses. The major elements of the strategy are as follows:—

1. To increase the production of pulses. To meet the demand and dietary needs of the population, a National Pulses Development Project has been launched during the 7th Five Year Plan as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A Central Sector Scheme has also been instituted for giving a thrust for growing Rabi/summer pulses.